The first Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism

Statement by

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CR5, UNHQ

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank Afghanistan, Spain and UNOCT for steering the discourse on victims of terrorism and organizing this event. This meeting is both timely and necessary.

2. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the scores of helpless and innocent victims who faced the barbaric and cowardly terrorist attacks that have taken place recently. These incidents only strengthen our collective resolve to stand firm in support of victims and to bring the perpetrators of such atrocious attacks to justice.

3. No place on the earth and no section of the society are impervious to the burgeoning spiteful tentacles of terrorism. The proponents and perpetrators of these nefarious acts cleverly adopt emerging technologies for furthering their ideology and accomplishing their evil acts. We frequently observe the changes in the modus operandi of terrorists in enlarging their network, extending their footprints, raising resources, recruiting cadres, instigating gullible segment of society to adhere to their destructive designs and launch attacks in different parts of the world.

4. While we undertake every possible collaborative and collective measure to counter, combat and eliminate terrorism, the entire world is looking at us to see our response to the indelible impact that terrorism caused on the human wellbeing and our efforts to take care of the urgent needs of the victims of terrorism. Being one of the
co-sponsors of the GA resolution on ‘Enhancement of international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism’, we are happy to see the involvement of more and more member states in promoting awareness and supporting the victims of terrorism in fulfilling their needs.

5. While we understand the immediate and long terms needs of the victims like recovery and rehabilitation; and we should jointly work with the victims to building counter narrative against the forceful and fanciful propaganda of terrorism.

6. In recent times, we have witnessed many mindless terror attacks even in places of worship. This shows that terrorism does not spare even religious places where believers visit to find peace.

7. Pluralistic societies are becoming targets of ever pervading terror incidents. It’s high time to promote and nurture intercultural and interreligious dialogue, for better understanding of religious and cultural values of one another, and to prevent hate and intolerance. Sustained interreligious and intercultural dialogues; mutual respect and acceptance of diverse ideological view points; and tolerance are the need of this hour to establish a culture of peace and security.

8. Finally, we should not forget that terrorism denies people their right to peace, security, development, and enjoyment of fundamental human rights.

Thank you